

HECB Legislative Issues: 2005 Session Report

Reflects final actions by Legislature and Governor during regular session

Issue	HECB Perspective	Legislative Status
Operating and Capital budgets	<p>The HECB in December 2004 recommended a \$400 million operating enhancement for higher education. The board supports the capital priorities identified by the two-year and four-year institutions.</p>	<p>Governor Gregoire signed the 2005-07 operating and capital budgets (HB 6090 and SB 6094) in mid-May. Both budgets take effect July 1.</p> <p>The operating budget will increase biennial higher education spending to \$3.07 billion and includes an increase of \$243 million related to budget policy changes. The new budget represents an increase of 14% from the 2003-05 higher education spending level. The capital budget includes \$922 million for higher education construction, divided evenly between projects at community and technical colleges and four-year institutions.</p> <p>Summaries of both budgets are available from the HECB.</p>
Branch campuses	<p>The HECB approved its recommendations on Jan. 27, regarding future development of the state's four research university branch campuses.</p> <p>The recommendations are contained in the report titled, "The Future of Washington's Branch Campuses," which was distributed to all legislators and many interested parties.</p>	<p>Governor Gregoire signed HB 1794 into law on May 4 at the UW Tacoma. The legislation authorizes lower-division courses and freshman and sophomore admissions at the UW branch campuses in Bothell and Tacoma, and the WSU branches at Vancouver and the Tri-Cities. A summary of the new law is attached.</p> <p>The 2005-07 operating budget contains funding for additional enrollments at each branch campus and for academic planning at Bothell, Tacoma and Vancouver. The capital and transportation budgets include funding for projects at all four branch campuses.</p>
Confirmation of HECB members	<p>When the 2005 session began, several members of the HECB awaited confirmation by the state Senate.</p>	<p>The Senate confirmed the governor's appointment of three HECB members – Betti Sheldon, Herb Simon, and Mike Worthy. The confirmations of three others – Bill Grinstein, Jesus Hernandez, and Sam Smith – will be reconsidered next year. The board's student member, Anthony Rose, was not confirmed, and his term will expire (on June 30) before the Legislature reconvenes.</p>

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CTC applied baccalaureate degree pilot projects	The HECB has recognized the issuance of four-year applied baccalaureate degrees by community and technical colleges as one of many options to expand student access to bachelor's degree programs.	HB 1794 authorizes the community and technical colleges to develop four applied baccalaureate degree pilot projects. The projects will be selected by the SBCTC and approved by the HECB. A request from the five public technical colleges to <i>require</i> that one of the pilot projects be provided by a technical college was not included in the final legislation.
Education finance studies	The HECB has endorsed a comprehensive study of the financing of the state's education system.	The Legislature and governor enacted SB 5441 to study the state's early learning, K-12 and higher education systems, and the 2005-07 operating budget includes \$1.7 million in project funding. The higher education study will address financing options, enrollment distribution, tuition and financial aid, instructional costs, K-12-to-higher education transitions, and other issues.
Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties needs assessment		The capital budget includes \$500,000 for the HECB to assess the higher education needs of three counties in northwest Washington and to recommend solutions. An interim report is due to lawmakers and the governor by January 2006.
Financial aid fund management	The HECB supports making maximum use of financial aid funds for their intended purposes.	Governor Gregoire has signed into law HB 1100 , which will establish a financial aid account in which unspent funds may be retained for the following year. The bill was approved unanimously in the House and Senate. This was the fourth session during which the Legislature considered similar legislation.
Financial aid for part-time college students		Governor Gregoire has signed HB 1345 to establish a HECB pilot project to provide the State Need Grant to a limited number of students who enroll in college for the equivalent of at least four credits per quarter. Students are currently required to enroll for a minimum of six credits. The bill directs the HECB to select up to 10 colleges to participate in the pilot beginning fall 2005. The legislative operating budget authorizes the board to earmark up to \$500,000 to conduct the pilot program during the next two academic years.

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Promise Scholarship program	The HECB administers the Promise Scholarship program and supports expanded funding for student awards.	The Legislature decided to terminate the 6-year-old Promise Scholarship program. Funds are provided in the biennial operating budget for second-year awards to scholarship winners who graduated from high school in 2004, but no new scholarships will be granted to students who graduate this spring. The program will cease operation June 30, 2006.
Guaranteed Education Tuition	The GET Committee, chaired by the HECB executive director, has recommended several changes to the state pre-paid tuition law.	The Legislature and governor enacted SB 5926 to permit new GET enrollments when either the purchaser or beneficiary is a Washington resident, and to make other administrative improvements. The new statute was requested by the GET Committee.
Foster youth education	The HECB generally supports efforts to expand higher education opportunities for students who have been in foster care.	The governor signed HB 1079 to direct a multi-agency committee, including the HECB, to coordinate state education and job training programs for foster youth. The measure allows preference for former foster youth in the State Need Grant and Work Study programs. The governor has signed HB 1050 to establish a foster care endowed scholarship administered by the HECB in conjunction with other organizations. The operating budget includes \$150,000 to develop the endowed scholarship, which also will be supported by private donations.
Academy of Sciences		Legislation (SB 5381) was enacted to develop an independent state academy of sciences to assess public policy questions at the request of the governor.
Life Sciences Research		The Legislature and governor enacted SB 5581 and included \$150,000 in the governor's office budget to establish the Life Sciences Discovery Fund, which also will be supported by funds from the state's tobacco master settlement agreement and private donations. The fund is designed to support research that will stimulate job creation and innovations in health care.
Tuition waiver study		The Legislature did not pass HB 1986 , which would have directed the HECB to review current tuition waivers and recommend priorities for waivers in the future.

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Resident tuition rates for undocumented students	The HECB works with colleges to administer legislation enacted in 2003, to make certain undocumented students eligible for resident tuition rates.	The House Higher Education Committee did not advance HB 1191 , which would have clarified that students who hold non-immigrant visas (which require a commitment from the student to retain his or her foreign resident status) are not eligible for resident tuition rates in Washington.
Running Start student eligibility	The HECB supports expanding “dual credit” programs that provide students credit toward both high school and college graduation.	The House did not approve Senate-passed SB 5360 , which called for a study of the Running Start program. The bill originally would have limited participation in Running Start to students who earn the state Certificate of Academic Achievement.
Affirmative Action in college admissions	The HECB supports the limited use of affirmative action criteria in student admission policies at public four-year colleges and universities.	The full Senate did not act on legislation (SB 5575) endorsed by its P-16 committee to permit the public baccalaureate schools to consider race, ethnicity and national origin in admitting students. The bill would have barred quotas, set-asides or point values for affirmative action considerations. As amended by the P-16 committee, the measure would have been submitted as a referendum to the people at the next general election.
College in the High School	The HECB supports expanding “dual-credit” programs that grant students credit toward high school and college graduation.	Neither the House nor Senate approved legislation requested by former Governor Locke (HB 1076 and SB 5076) to establish the College in the High School program in state law. However, the program will continue to be offered to high school students.
Statewide student association	HB 3103, enacted in 2004, established a priority for the HECB to serve as an advocate on behalf of students.	Neither the House nor Senate approved legislation (HB 2107 and SB 5971) requested by the Washington Student Lobby to establish a statewide, permanently funded student association.

The Future of Washington's Branch Campuses

Summary of branch campus legislation (HB 1794) as enacted during 2005 session

All Campuses	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
Governance	Remain affiliated with UW or WSU.	Same as HECB.
Upper-division and graduate	Expand upper-division and graduate programs.	Expansion of programs for transfer and graduate students is “the top priority” for each campus. Elsewhere, the bill says expansion of transfer and graduate opportunities is “a top priority” for the UW branch campuses in Bothell and Tacoma.
Funding	Each campus should be funded within the regional university model.	Costs are affected by institution size, program mix, and the proportion of students in lower- and upper-division and graduate programs. Over time, branches should be funded “more similarly” to regional universities.
UW Tacoma	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
Freshman/sophomore admissions	Beginning fall 2007, admit freshmen and sophomores under “gradual and deliberate” plan submitted to HECB.	Same as HECB, and clarifies that admissions of freshmen and sophomores are in addition to authority to offer lower-division courses.
Lower-division courses and programs	Offer selected lower-division courses as discussed in university self-study.	Beginning fall 2006, may offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed at local community colleges.
Transition to four-year university	Gradually develop into a four-year metropolitan university as outlined in the self-study, with continued emphasis on upper-division transfer students.	Development into four-year university not addressed specifically, but implied in endorsement of university self-study plan. The legislation does not use the term “metropolitan” university.
Co-admission, co-enrollment and transfer admissions	Branches should establish and/or expand co-admission and co-enrollments with community colleges. Options should include transfer with as few as 45 credits.	UWT “shall” have co-admission and co-enrollment agreements with community colleges, and admit transfer students with as few as 45 “transferable” college credits.

UW Bothell	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
Freshman/sophomore admissions	UWB should not admit freshmen and sophomores at this time. HECB staff should study issue and report to board 12/05.	Admit freshmen and sophomores per plan submitted to HECB. (Note: UWB plan calls for freshman admissions beginning fall 2006.) Clarifies that freshman/sophomore admissions are in addition to authority to offer lower-division courses.
Lower-division courses and programs	Offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed by programs at Cascadia CC.	Beginning fall 2006, offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed “at local community colleges.”
Transition to four-year university	Should expand partnership with Cascadia CC and other two-year colleges instead of becoming four-year university.	Transition to four-year status not addressed specifically, but implied in endorsement of lower-division courses and freshman/sophomore admissions.
Co-admission and co-enrollment	Branches should establish and/or expand co-admission and co-enrollment programs with community colleges.	Beginning fall 2006, may admit lower-division students through co-admission or co-enrollment agreements with community colleges, and admit transfer students with as few as 45 “transferable” college credits.
WSU Vancouver	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
Transition to four-year university	Beginning fall 2006: -- Expand offerings at all academic levels, offer direct admission of freshmen and sophomores, and become four-year “metropolitan” university in WSU system. -- Consider admitting transfer students with as few as 45 quarter credits.	Same as HECB, except: Does not specifically address 45-credit transfer admissions or use the “metropolitan” university designation.
WSU Tri-Cities	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
Freshman/sophomore admissions	WSUTC should not admit freshmen and sophomores at this time. HECB staff should study issue and report to board 12/05.	Freshmen and sophomores may be admitted only for a biotechnology degree program, subject to HECB approval. Clarifies that freshman/sophomore admissions are in addition to authority to offer lower-division courses, and calls for further study and recommendations by the HECB.
Lower-division courses and programs	Expand availability of lower-division courses linked to specific majors not addressed at Columbia Basin College.	Beginning fall 2006, may offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed at “local community colleges.”

WSU Tri-Cities (cont.)	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
Transition to four-year university	Development into four-year university is not supported by projected enrollment demand at this time.	Not specifically addressed in the bill, but could be addressed in HECB study.
Co-admission and co-enrollment	Branches should establish and/or expand co-admission and co-enrollment programs with community colleges. WSUTC should continue its successful partnership with Columbia Basin (Community) College in Pasco.	Continue providing “innovative” co-admission and co-enrollment options with Columbia Basin College. Transfer students may be admitted to WSUTC with as few as 45 “transferable” college credits.
Pacific NW National Laboratory	Partnership with PNNL should be further developed and expanded.	Same as HECB.
Other issues	HECB Recommendations	HB 1794 – As enacted
CTC applied baccalaureate pilot project	HECB master plan describes applied baccalaureate programs at CTCs as one of many options for expanding production of four-year degrees.	SBCTC will select four community or technical colleges to develop applied baccalaureate degree programs, subject to HECB approval. Projects may not begin before fall 2006. Several selection criteria are outlined. SBCTC has formed a task force to develop selection criteria.
CTC contract with regional university	Not addressed	Three community or technical colleges will be selected by SBCTC to receive enrollment funding to contract with a regional university for baccalaureate degree programs, not limited to applied degrees. The agreements would be subject to HECB approval. No funding was included in the 2005-07 budget.
North Snohomish Island Skagit Consortium (NSIS)	Not addressed	Assigns management of NSIS to Everett CC. Currently, WWU serves as fiscal agent. Everett CC would develop management and educational plan based on university center model, due 12/05.
HECB monitoring	HECB staff would report to the board on freshman and sophomore admissions at UW Bothell and WSU Tri-Cities by 12/05.	HECB would monitor and evaluate the addition of lower-division students to the branches and ensure campuses follow state priorities. HECB also defines outcomes and develops performance measures for branches and makes progress reports beginning 12/08.